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NSC BRIEFING

28 September 1960

BACKGROUND

THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN TURKEY

- I. The military regime in Turkey is now entering its fifth month and the reversion to civil authority appears more distant than ever.
 - A. The target date for national elections has again been postponed, now, to 27 October 1961.
 - B. The opening date for the trial of the leaders of the former regime is still not firmly established although late October or early November 1960 appears probable.
 - C. The new constitution, not yet completed, must be approved by the ruling committee of National Union and be submitted to some type of popular referendum.
- II. The Committee has established its position as ruling authority in Turkey, and has, in fact, aggressively attacked some of Turkey's basic political, economic, and social problems.
 - A. The recent cabinet shakeup and wholesale retirement of senior military officers assured its primacy, although a struggle for power within the Committee is still possible.
 - B. At least two factions have emerged in the Committee-- a group of young, ambitious, nationalistic officers led by Colonel Turkes, and a more conservative group apparently led by Lt. Gen. Madanoglu.
 1. Turkes' recent withdrawal as undersecretary to the Prime Minister appears to reflect the growing seriousness of the cleavage within the Committee.

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- III. No significant opposition to the regime has emerged, but the longer the military committee remains in power the more probable that dissatisfaction will mount.
- IV. The situation developing in Turkey presents the United States and the West with certain inherent dangers.
- A. The current regime has demonstrated its intention to remain somewhat aloof in its relations with the United States.
 - B. Moreover, while reaffirming its intention to remain aligned with the West, the new regime has professed its desire to improve relations with neighboring countries, especially the USSR.
 - C. It is also problematical how long the regime, under considerable economic stresses, can resist the tempting Soviet aid offers.

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